



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Contact Tracing

Get and Keep America Open: Supporting states, tribes, localities, and territories

Revisions were made on May 29, 2020 to [Health Departments: Interim guidance on developing a COVID-19 case investigation & contact tracing plan](#) to reflect the following:

The contact elicitation window for asymptomatic cases was changed from 10 days before obtaining the specimen that tested positive for COVID-19 to 2 days to accommodate pragmatic and operational considerations for the implementation of case investigation and contact tracing programs. Additionally, recent data suggests that asymptomatic persons may have a lower viral burden at diagnosis compared to symptomatic cases. Thus, the longer contact elicitation window (beginning 10 days prior to specimen collection) may have limited impact in identification of new COVID-19 cases. Furthermore, the recommendation for the shorter contact elicitation window (beginning 2 days prior to specimen collection) will help focus case investigation and contact tracing resources towards activities most likely to interrupt ongoing transmission. This time period is also now in alignment with WHO, European CDC, and Public Health Canada.

Summary of Recent Changes

Revisions were made on May 22, 2020, to reflect the following:

- **New guidance resource available (see "Guidance" section below):** [Key Information to Collect During a Case Interview](#)

Revisions were made on May 15, 2020, to reflect the following:

- **New guidance document available (see "Guidance" section below):** [Health Departments: Interim guidance on developing a COVID-19 case investigation & contact tracing plan](#)

CDC guidance for COVID-19 may be adapted by state and local health departments to respond to rapidly changing local circumstances.

Key Concepts

- **Trace and monitor contacts of infected people.** Notify them of their exposure.
- **Support the quarantine of contacts.** Help ensure the safe, sustainable and effective quarantine of contacts to prevent additional transmission.
- **Expand staffing resources.** Contact tracing in the US will require that states, tribes, localities and territorial establish large cadres of contact tracers.
- **Use digital tools.** Adoption and evaluation of digital tools may expand reach and efficacy of contact tracers.

Resources from CDC

Resources for conducting contact tracing to stop the spread of COVID-19

Training

- [COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training: Guidance, Resources, and Training Plan](#)



Digital Tools

- [Preliminary Criteria for the Evaluation of Digital Contact Tracing Tools for COVID-19](#) 📄
- [Digital Contact Tracing Tools for COVID-19](#) 📄 : This fact sheet describes different digital contact tracing tools for COVID-19 by primary purpose and primary user.

Guidance

- **New!** [Health Departments: Interim guidance on developing a COVID-19 case investigation & contact tracing plan](#) 📄 .
 - **New!** [Key Information to Collect During a Case Interview](#)
- [Principles of Contact Tracing](#): CDC'S Basic principles of contact tracing to stop COVID-19 transmission.
 - [Download PDF: COVID-19 Principles of Contact Tracing booklet](#) 📄
- [Handling Non-COVID-19 Public Health Activities that Require Face-to-Face Interaction with Clients in the Clinic and Field in the Current COVID-19 Pandemic](#): CDC guidance for the management of public health workers engaged in public health activities that require face-to-face interaction with clients in clinic and field settings.
- [Community-Related Exposures](#): CDC's recommendations for community-related exposures.
- [Travel-Associated Exposures](#): CDC's recommendations for travel-associated exposures.

How COVID-19 Can Spread in a Community

Resources from Other Organizations

Content describing non-CDC tools on this site is provided for informational purposes only and is **not intended to indicate endorsement**, actual or implied, of the tools. Additionally, information on this site is provided “as is,” for users to evaluate and make their own determination as to their effectiveness.

Other Federal Agencies

Several other federal agencies are also supporting this critical effort by providing:

- **National Institutes of Health**
 - **Published Journal Articles**
 - [COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Data Protection Can Go Together](#) 
 - [Epidemic Models of Contact Tracing: Systematic Review of Transmission Studies of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome](#) 
- **Department of Health and Human Services:** [Quarantine- and Traveler-Related Activities, Including Records for Contact Tracing Investigation and Notification under 42 CFR Parts 70 and 71, HHS/CDC/CCID.](#) 

Private Sector, Non-governmental Organizations and Academia

Various other organizations are also supporting this critical effort by providing:

Digital Tools

- **Cornell University:** [Contact Tracing Mobile Apps for COVID-19: Privacy Considerations](#) 
- **Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Center for Health Security:** [Review of mobile application technology to enhance contact tracing capacity for COVID-19](#)  
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology:** [A privacy first approach to contact tracing: A system for identifying people at risk of COVID-19 infection by using the Bluetooth signals sent between cell phones](#) 

Guidance

- **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, George Washington University, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials:** [Contact Tracing Workforce Estimator](#) 
- **Governor’s Association and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials:** [Roadmap to Recovery: A Public Health Guide for Governors](#) 
- **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials:** [A Coordinated, National Approach to Scaling Public Health Capacity for Contact Tracing and Disease Investigation](#) 
- **Resolve to Save Lives:** [US COVID-19 Contact Tracing Playbook](#) 
- **Resolve to Save Lives:** [Contact Tracing Protocol](#)  
- **Resolve to Save Lives:** [Criteria for determining when it is safe to loosen social distancing measures](#)  
- **Resolve to Save Lives:** [Criteria for determining when strict mitigation measures must be reapplied](#)  

- **Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Center for Health Security and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO):** [A National Plan to Enable Comprehensive COVID-19 Case Finding and Contact Tracing in the US](#)  
- **Johns Hopkins School of Public Health:** [Recommendations for local jurisdictions to slow and stop the transmission of COVID-19.](#) 
- **North Carolina Division of Public Health:** [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Contact Tracing Instructions for Non-healthcare Settings.pdf](#)  
- **National Association of County & City Health Officials:** [NACCHO Position Statement on building COVID-19 Contact Tracing in Health Departments to Support Reopening American Society Safely](#)  
- **Partners in Health:** [Partners in Health COVID-19 Guide: Testing, Contact Tracing and Community Management](#)  
- **American Enterprise Institute:** [Steps to transition the COVID-19 response from mitigation to targeted interventions that stop transmission](#)  
- **Wisconsin Department of Health Services:** [This document is intended to guide the notification of close contacts of COVID-19 cases so that they may begin self-quarantine and symptom monitoring, as recommended](#)  
- **National Coalition of STD Directors:** [Disease Intervention Specialist Certificate Video](#) 

Training

- **National Network of Public Health Institutes:** [NNPHI](#)  mobilizes more than 45 member public health institutes with as well as 10 university-based regional training centers serving all ten HHS regions. Find training or join an online community to connect with public health practitioners about COVID response, recovery, and related issues like workforce resilience.
- **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials/National Coalition of STD Directors:** [Making Contact: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers](#)  . An introductory online course for entry-level COVID-19 contact tracers, for use by health agencies in rapid training of new contact tracers. The training should be augmented by state/local specific training required to orient individuals to jurisdiction-specific protocols.
- [ASPPH Curated List of COVID-19 Related Training Courses](#) 



Search for specific COVID-19 guidance across CDC web pages and documents

Page last reviewed: May 15, 2020

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)